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WHAT IS ARTICLE 142 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION?



Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The Supreme Court recently refused to entertain a PIL seeking directions under Article 142 to include sexual offences against men, trans persons, and animals under the newly enacted Bharatiya

- It deals with the **Supreme Court's power to exercise its jurisdiction and pass an order for doing complete justice** in any cause or matter pending before it.
- It provides the apex court with a **special and extraordinary power** and is meant to **provide justice to litigants who have suffered traversed illegality or injustice** in the course of legal proceedings.
- Article 142(1) states that “The Supreme Court, in the exercise of its jurisdiction, may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and **any decree so passed** or order so made shall be **enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner** as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the **President may by order prescribe**”.
- Article 142 allows the Supreme Court to **deliver justice in exceptional cases** where existing provisions or laws are not applicable.
- This power **cannot be used to "supplant" substantive law applicable to the case** or cause under consideration of the court.
- **Significant cases** where Article 142 was invoked:
 - **Babri Masjid Case:** The article was used in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case and was instrumental in the handover of the disputed land to a trust to be formed by the union government.
 - **Bhopal Gas Tragedy:** The SC invoked its plenary powers in the Union Carbide vs Union Govt case and intervened to provide compensation to victims of the deadly Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

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INDIA-CANADA DIPLOMATIC ESCALATION OVER NIJJAR KILLING CASE

Challenges in India-Canada relations

- **Separatist Khalistani groups**
 - Canada has been providing a safe haven for separatist Khalistani groups, which New Delhi sees as the Liberal Party's pandering to these groups for votes.
 - Diaspora Sikhs are well represented in the Trudeau government. Some of them are politically supported by pro-Khalistan groups.
 - Jagmeet 'Jimmy' Dhaliwal, whose New Democratic Party supports Trudeau's minority government in Parliament, is viewed with suspicion by the Indian establishment.
- **Canada is slow to act against anti-India elements on its soil**
 - Concerns that Canada is slow to act against anti-India elements on its soil have been a constant irritant in the relationship.
 - A massive controversy had erupted, in June 2023, over a social media video of a parade float depicting late PM Indira Gandhi's assassination in Canada.
 - Parade was allegedly organised by pro-Khalistani supporters days before the 39th anniversary of 'Operation Bluestar' (celebrated on June 6).
- **Other irritants include**
 - Attacks on Indian-origin people;
 - Canadian comments over India's farmer protests and India's cancellation of diplomatic talks in response.

India-Canada Diplomatic row: Background

- **Death of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) chief**
 - Hardeep Singh Nijjar, wanted by the Indian government, was killed in a targeted shooting in June 2023.
- **Issue raised on the sidelines of G20 Summit**

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- On the sidelines the G20 Summit in Delhi on September 10, Canadian PM and PM Modi had discussed Khalistani extremism.
- On the other hand, during the meeting, PM Modi had expressed his deep concerns to Canadian PM about the ongoing anti-India activities being carried out by extremist elements in Canada.

Recent Diplomatic Escalation

- **India's Response and Diplomatic Withdrawal**
 - India stated it was withdrawing its diplomats due to safety concerns, accusing the Trudeau government of not ensuring their security.
 - By the evening of October 14, India's MEA summoned Canadian diplomats and informed them of the decision to expel six of their diplomats.
 - These developments followed Ottawa naming India's High Commissioner to Canada and a few other diplomats as 'persons of interest' in the investigation into Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder.

Allegations by Canadian Police Against Indian Government

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) accused Indian government agents of collaborating with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang to spread terror in Canada.
 - Bishnoi's criminal network is reportedly active in Canada, and Canadian authorities allege that the Indian government has used this network for targeting dissidents.
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NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS 2024

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for 2024 to three US-based economists - **Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A Robinson.**

Their research sheds light on a fundamental question that has intrigued economists for decades: **Why are some nations rich while others remain poor?**

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Their research focuses on the **impact of societal institutions on economic prosperity**, exploring how the frameworks governing behaviour can lead to significant disparities in wealth among countries.

Case Studies of India and China:

- **Diverging paths - Relationship between political systems and economic success:**
 - The economic trajectories of India and China illustrate the complex interplay between institutions and prosperity.
 - India, with its democratic framework and inclusive institutions, has seen relatively slow economic growth compared to China, which has prospered under a more authoritarian regime.
- **The future outlook:**
 - Despite these differences, some argue that India may still realise its economic potential in the coming decades, as it continues to strengthen its institutions.
 - Meanwhile, China's future growth may be jeopardised by its lack of inclusive frameworks, suggesting a possible shift in global economic dynamics.

Current Trends of the Democracies Around the World and the Need for Reform:

- **Declining state of democracies:**
 - The health of democracies is critical for maintaining governance that benefits a broad range of citizens.
 - However, there is a troubling trend of weakening institutions and growing support for authoritarianism around the world.
- **The need for reform:**
 - Effective governance, accountability, and broad-based participation are essential for fostering an environment conducive to economic growth and social stability.
 - **For this reason, the importance of inclusive institutions cannot be overstated.**

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Significance of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics:

- The ongoing discourse about the interplay between institutions and economic development remains **vital for policymakers and scholars alike**.
 - The lessons drawn from this research will be crucial in **addressing disparities and promoting sustainable growth** for future generations.
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WHAT IS THAAD MISSILE SYSTEM?



Israel.

As Israel intensifies its military operation against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, the United States announced it will deploy a missile defence system, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) battery, to

- It is a missile defense system that can engage and destroy **short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles** during their terminal phase of flight.
- **Key features**
 - It has a **“hit to kill” approach** which blasts missiles as they enter their target zone during their descent.
 - It uses **kinetic energy** to destroy incoming nuclear warheads.
 - **Target range:** It can cover a wide area, engaging targets at **distances between 150-200 kilometers (93-124 miles)**.

Development of THAAD

- It was developed by the US after their experience of **Iraq's Scud missile attacks** during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.
 - In 2008, the US deployed an early missile warning radar, a part of the THAAD system to Israel. Similar deployments were also made in 2012 and 2019, aiding Israel's ability to emerge as a military power.
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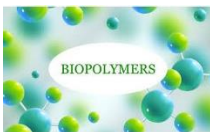
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WHAT IS UNICEF?



- The **United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund** (UNICEF) was established in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II.
- **Mandate:** To help children and young people whose lives and futures were at risk – no matter what role their country had played in the war.
- It works in over **190 countries** and territories to protect the rights of every child.
- **Funding:** UNICEF's work is funded **entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people** around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector.
- **Awards:** It has received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1965**, the **Indira Gandhi Prize in 1989**, and the **Princess of Asturias Award in 2006**.
- It publishes **important Reports:** The State of the World’s Children, The State of the World’s Children reports.
- **Global Initiatives:**
 - In 2012, UNICEF worked with Save the Children and The United Nations Global Compact to develop the Children's Rights and Business Principles, and now these guidelines form the basis of UNICEF's advice to companies.
 - **UNICEF's Data Must Speak Initiative (DMS)** helps countries unlock existing data to expand access to education and improve learning for all.
- **Headquarters:** It is headquartered in **New York City**.

WHAT ARE BIOPOLYMERS?



Recently, the Union Minister inaugurated India’s first **Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers in Pune**.

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Biopolymers are materials that have been **manufactured from biological sources** such as fats, vegetable oils, sugars, resins, and proteins.

- The biopolymers have more complex structures than synthetic polymers therefore they are more active in vivo.
 - Furthermore, as biopolymers are biodegradable their **decomposition is easily done by bacteria in the soil environment**, as compared to synthetic polymers which cause environmental pollution due to incineration.
 - **Characteristics**
 - They can control the life processes of living organisms and are environmentally friendly.
 - They are decomposed by the **processes named –oxidation** (mainly reaction with oxygen), hydrolysis (decomposition by water) or by some enzymes.
 - Some of them are compostable and can show some chemical properties on their surface.
 - Biopolymers like polylactic acid, polyglycolate, poly 3-hydroxy butyrate etc. may **show plastic properties and instead**.
 - **Benefits:**
 - These polymers can **reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere** and also decrease carbon emissions.
 - This happens because bio-degradation of these chemical compounds can release carbon dioxide that can be reabsorbed by crops grown as a substitute in their place.
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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION



Inter-Parliamentary Union is the international **organization of Parliaments** which was **established in 1889** in Paris to promote representative democracy and world peace.



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- It facilitates **parliamentary diplomacy** and empowers parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy, and sustainable development around the world.
- It was the first multilateral political organization in the world, **encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations.**

Members: It comprises **180 member** parliaments and 15 associate members.

- It promotes democracy and helps parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced and more diverse.
- It also defends the human rights of parliamentarians through a dedicated committee made up of MPs from around the world.
- The IPU moved its headquarters to Geneva in 1921.

Funding: It is financed primarily by its **members out of public funds.**

Structure

- **IPU Assembly:** It is the principal statutory body that expresses the views of the IPU on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for action.
 - **Governing Council:** It is the plenary policymaking body of the IPU. It is **composed of three representatives** from each member of parliament. The President of the IPU is ex-officio President of the Governing Council.
 - The Council establishes the annual programme and budget of the IPU.
 - **Executive Committees:** In accordance with the IPU statutes, this **17-member body oversees the administration** of the IPU and provides advice to the Governing Council. The 15 members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Council for a **four-year term.**
 - The President of the IPU is an ex officio member and President of the Committee.
 - **Standing Committees:** There are three Standing Committees set up by the IPU Governing Council to assist the Assembly in its work.
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MAHA-EV MISSION



- It focuses on the **development of key EV technologies** to reduce dependency on imports, promote domestic innovation, and position India as a global leader in the EV sector.
- It is part of ANRF's Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) program designed to catalyze multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary, and multi-investigator **collaboration to tackle critical scientific challenges**.
- It aims to **accelerate technological advancement** in key sectors that have a high impact on the nation's future growth to create a global standing in the area.
- It is concentrating on **three critical technology verticals-- Tropical EV Batteries and Battery Cells, Power Electronics, Machines, and Drives (PEMD) and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**.

Significance

- The mission will **enhance domestic capabilities** in the design and development of essential EV components.
- It will **strengthen competitiveness** and position India as a hub for EV component development, driving global competitiveness and innovation.
- By accelerating the shift towards electric mobility, it will contribute to a greener and sustainable future.